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no. 1  
(2000:  
Feb.)



February 2000 Issue No. 1

# MCBS PROFILES

## Beneficiaries' Views on Medicare Information, 1998

### OVERVIEW

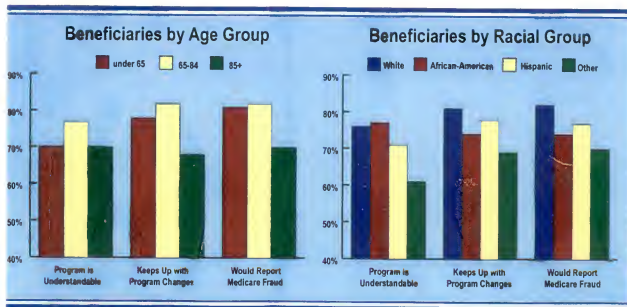
- 81% of beneficiaries are satisfied with the availability of Medicare information.
- 80% of beneficiaries would report suspected Medicare fraud.
- 76% of beneficiaries report that the Medicare program is understandable.
- 73% of beneficiaries are satisfied with the ways available for making program suggestions.
- 35% of beneficiaries get their information from the Medicare handbook, 22% use the media, 12% use the toll-free number, 8% use other sources, and 20% do not keep up with Medicare developments.

### AGE

- Disabled beneficiaries (under age 65) and beneficiaries over age 85 are: less likely to keep up with Medicare program changes; less likely to understand the program; and less satisfied with the availability of information and ways of making program suggestions.
- Beneficiaries aged 65 to 84 are the most likely to report fraud, followed by the disabled, and lastly those over age 84, who are the least likely to report fraud.

### RACE/ETHNICITY

- African-American and white beneficiaries are the most likely to understand the Medicare program. Hispanic and white beneficiaries are the most likely to keep up with Medicare program changes.
- African-American beneficiaries are the most satisfied with Medicare information and ways of making program suggestions.
- White beneficiaries are the most likely to report Medicare fraud, followed by Hispanic, African-American, and "other" beneficiaries.



## INCOME

• Beneficiaries with annual incomes of \$10,000 or below are the least likely to: understand the Medicare program; keep up with program changes; or report fraud. As income levels rise, more beneficiaries keep up with Medicare program changes and say that they would report fraud.

• Levels of satisfaction with Medicare program information and ways of making program suggestions do not vary greatly between income levels.

## SCHOOLING

• Beneficiaries with less education have greater difficulty understanding the Medicare program than those with more education.

• Levels of satisfaction with Medicare program information and ways of making program suggestions are lower for beneficiaries with college education.

• Beneficiaries with fewer years of schooling are the least likely to keep up with Medicare program changes and to report fraud.

## HEALTH STATUS

• As health status declines beneficiaries are less likely to: understand the Medicare program; keep up with program changes; report fraud; and be satisfied with the available information and ways of making program suggestions.

## LIVING ARRANGEMENT

• Beneficiaries that live with a spouse are more likely to: understand the Medicare program; keep up with program changes; and report fraud than those that live alone, with children, or with others.

• Levels of satisfaction do not vary greatly among different living arrangements.

## FUNCTIONAL STATUS

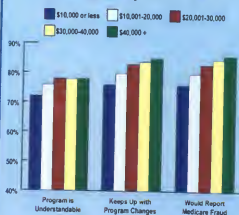
• Beneficiaries that reported no functional limitations are more likely to: understand the Medicare program; keep up with program changes; report fraud; and be satisfied with Medicare information and ways of making program suggestions than those with limitations.

## METROPOLITAN RESIDENCE

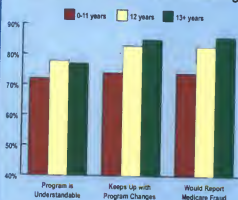
• Beneficiaries living in metropolitan areas are more likely to understand the Medicare program and be satisfied with available program information; while beneficiaries living in non-metropolitan areas are more likely to be satisfied with ways of making program suggestions and more likely to report fraud.

• Metropolitan residence appears to have no connection with whether beneficiaries keep up with Medicare program changes.

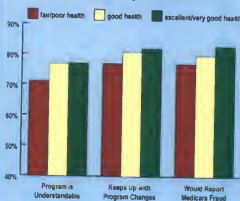
### Beneficiaries by Income Level



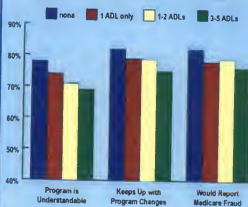
### Beneficiaries by Years of Schooling



### Beneficiaries by Health Status



### Beneficiaries by Functional Status



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